

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGION

ORDER NO. 82-51

NPDES Permit No. CA 0037541
An Order Amending Order No. 79-121
To Adopt Revised Requirements For:

City of San Mateo
San Mateo County

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Francisco Bay Region, finds that:

1. The Regional Board on September 17, 1974 adopted Order No. 74-98, issuing waste discharge requirements and a permit to discharge wastes under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System for the City of San Mateo, hereinafter called the discharger.
2. Order No. 74-98 cited shellfish propagation and harvesting for human consumption as a beneficial use, prescribed effluent limitations intended to protect that use and included time schedules for the discharger to design and construct necessary facilities.
3. The need for facilities capable of protecting shellfish harvesting was expressed in Resolution No. 74-14, adopted by the Regional Board on October 15, 1974, entitled "Policy Statement with Respect to the Implementation of Time Schedules for Facilities to Protect Shellfish". In accordance with this Resolution and NPDES permits implementing the Resolution, the discharger obtained Clean Water Grant funding for new advanced wastewater treatment facilities. The new tertiary treatment facilities became operational in September 1979.
4. The Regional Board adopted Order No. 79-121 on September 18, 1979 reissuing the discharger's NPDES permit without significant change.
5. Further investigation of the potential for recreational shellfish harvesting in San Francisco Bay was authorized by the Board in Resolution No. 78-8, adopted March 21, 1978, and titled "Policy Statement with Respect to the Regional Board Program to Open San Francisco Bay Shellfish Beds for Direct Recreational Use". The program proposed to intensively study a shellfish area in San Mateo County to determine the degree of contamination present, and then to work with the cities and agencies involved to open all or part of the study area for direct recreational harvesting.
6. Shellfish beds in the Foster City area can be affected by the discharger's effluent and by other contaminants, primarily coliform bacteria, coming from storm drains, creeks, and lagoon discharges to the Bay. During wet weather, receiving water coliform limits are frequently violated in these beds due to the presence of large volumes of contaminated surface runoff.

7. The Regional Board has identified urban runoff as a significant source of pollutants in Resolution No. 78-5, "Position Statement Regarding Surface Runoff", adopted February 21, 1978. The development and implementation of best management practices by local governments was the recommended reasonable means for reducing pollutant loads from surface runoff. The Resolution also affirmed that wherever surface runoff is shown to cause significant adverse impacts on beneficial uses, or whenever local agencies are not taking reasonable steps to reduce pollutants loads in surface runoff, the Board will take steps to directly regulate surface runoff through the issuance of waste discharge requirements or NPDES permits.
8. Shellfish Program studies have concluded that during wet weather months surface runoff contamination renders all of the shellfish beds studied unsafe for harvesting most of the time.

Therefore, protection of this beneficial use during wet weather will not be possible unless significant resources are devoted to improved control and/or treatment of contaminated runoff. Until such improvements are achieved the quality of waters overlying the shellfish beds during wet weather will most often be controlled by the amount and type of runoff received, not the discharger's tertiary quality effluent.

9. The discharger has requested less stringent wet weather effluent limitations given the unlikelihood of shellfish harvesting being approved during wet weather months. A change to conventional secondary effluent limitations during wet weather months would allow the discharger to save approximately \$250,000 annually on operations and maintenance costs while still providing protection for all other beneficial uses. Dry weather requirements would remain the same.
10. Bacterial concentrations are at their lowest in shellfish and Bay waters during the summer dry weather months. Dry weather drainage from creeks, lagoons, and storm drains can be a significant source of contamination for some shellfish beds. The development and implementation of best management practices by the discharger is needed to reduce the potential for contamination of shellfish beds by such dry weather drainage. If certain beds are to be opened for recreational harvesting, such as the proposed study area at Coyote Point, contingency/emergency response plans would need to be developed by the discharger, in coordination with other responsible cities and agencies. Such plans would include provisions for notifying responsible agencies for controlling harvesting of shellfish in the event of treatment plant and collection system bypasses or other unexpected incidents. These issues are being pursued as part of the continuing San Francisco Bay Shellfish Program.

11. An Operations and Maintenance Manual is maintained by the discharger for purposes of providing plant and regulatory personnel with a source of information describing all equipment, facilities, and recommended operating strategies, process control monitoring, and maintenance activities. In order to remain a useful and relevant document, this manual should be updated at least annually to reflect significant changes in plant facilities or activities. Significant changes have occurred at the City of San Mateo treatment plant since the manual was last revised in 1980.
12. The Regional Board has notified the discharger and interested agencies and persons of its intent to prescribe revised requirements for the City of San Mateo.
13. The Regional Board, in a public meeting, heard and considered all comments pertaining to this discharge.
14. The issuance of revised waste discharge requirements for this discharge is exempt from the provisions of Chapter 3 (commencing with Section 21000) of Division 13 of the Public Resources Code in accordance with Water Code Section 13389.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, that Order No. 79-121 is amended to read as follows:

A. Effluent Limitation B.1.

1. The discharge of an effluent containing constituents in excess of the following limits is prohibited, except where noted:

	<u>Constituent</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>30-Day Average</u>	<u>7-Day Average</u>	<u>Daily Maximum</u>	<u>Instan- taneous Maximum</u>
a.	Settleable Matter	ml/l-hr	0.1	-	-	0.2
b.	BOD (*)	mg/l	10	15	20	-
		lbs/day	1,850	-	3,700	-
		kg/day	839	-	1,678	-
c.	Suspended Solids (*)	mg/l	8	12	16	-
		lbs/day	1,480	-	2,960	-
		kg/day	670	-	1,340	-
d.	Grease and Oil	mg/l	10	-	20	-
		lbs/day	1,850	-	3,700	-
		kg/day	839	-	1,678	-
e.	Chlorine Residual	mg/l	-	-	-	0.0
f.	Turbidity*	NTU	10	-	20	-

(*) During the months of October through April, inclusive, the following effluent limitations shall apply:

<u>Constituent</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>30-Day Average</u>	<u>7-Day Average</u>	<u>Daily Maximum</u>
BOD	mg/l	30	45	60
	kg/day	2517	-	5034
Suspended Solids	mg/l	30	45	60
	kg/day	2517	-	5034
Turbidity	NTU	-	Not applicable	-

B. Effluent Limitation B.5.

At some point in the treatment process the waste shall not exceed a median MPN of coliform organisms of 2.2/100 ml nor a maximum of 240 MPN/100 ml as determined from the results of the previous consecutive seven days for which analyses have been completed, except that during the months of October through April, inclusive, the waste shall not exceed a seven sample median of 23 MPN/100 ml nor a maximum of 240 MPN/100 ml.

C. Provision D.10 is added as follows:

The discharger shall review and update his Operations and Maintenance Manual annually, or in the event of significant facility or process changes, shortly after such changes have occurred. Annual revisions, or letters stating that no changes are needed, shall be submitted to the Regional Board by April 15 of each year. A time schedule for completion of the initial revision shall be submitted by September 30, 1982. Documentation of operator input and review should accompany each annual update.

I, Fred H. Dierker, Executive Officer, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of an Order adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Francisco Bay Region, on September 15, 1982.

FRED H. DIERKER
Executive Officer